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THE PUNISHER 2099
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DEADLY SKY!
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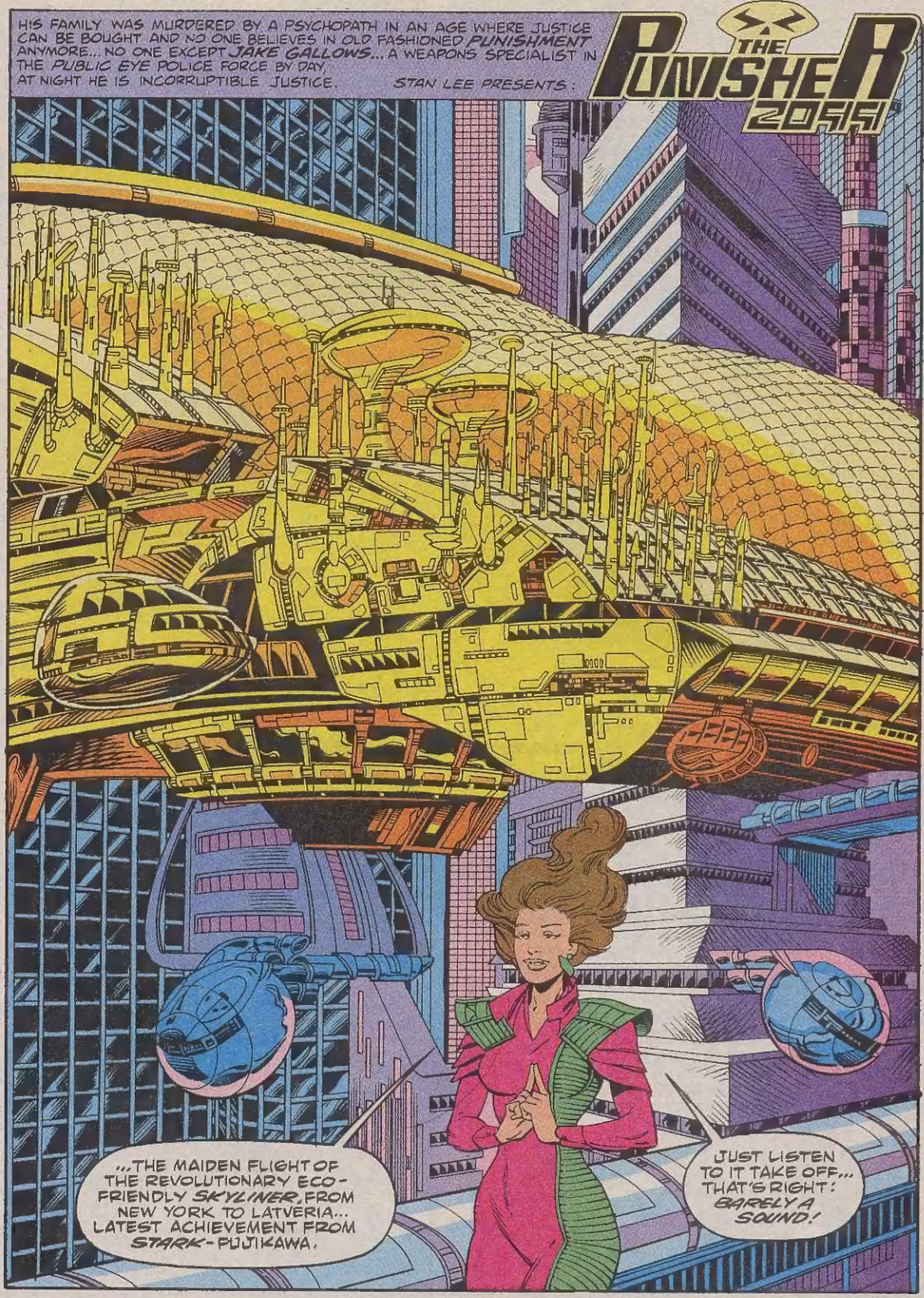
HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD FASHIONED PUNISHMENT ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT JAKE GALLOWS... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE PUBLIC EYE POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE PUNISHER 2099
...THE MAIDEN FLIGHT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ECO-FRIENDLY SKYLINER, FROM NEW YORK TO LATVERIA... LATEST ACHIEVEMENT FROM STARK-FUJIKAWA.
JUST LISTEN TO IT TAKE OFF... THAT'S RIGHT: BARELY A SOUND!

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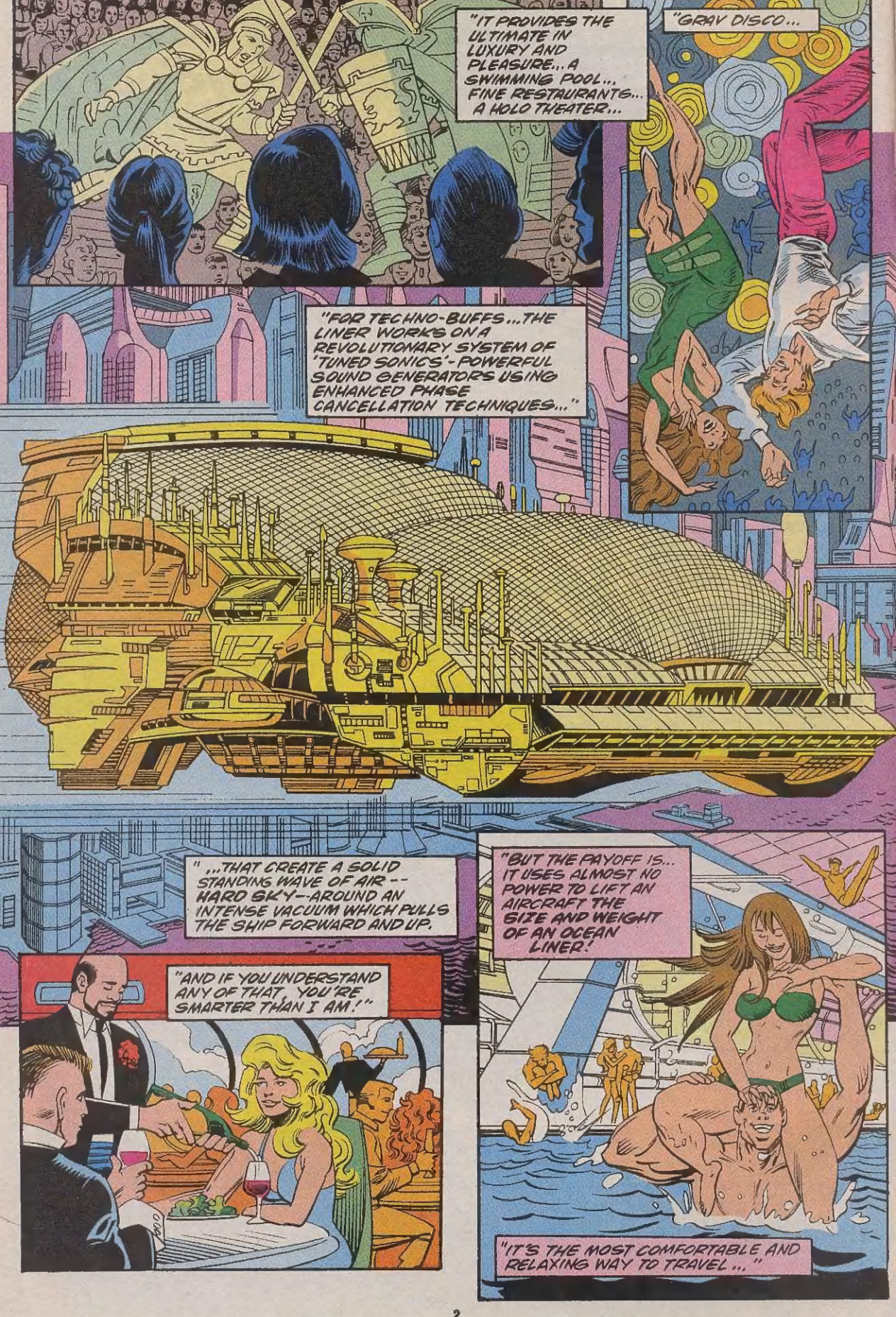
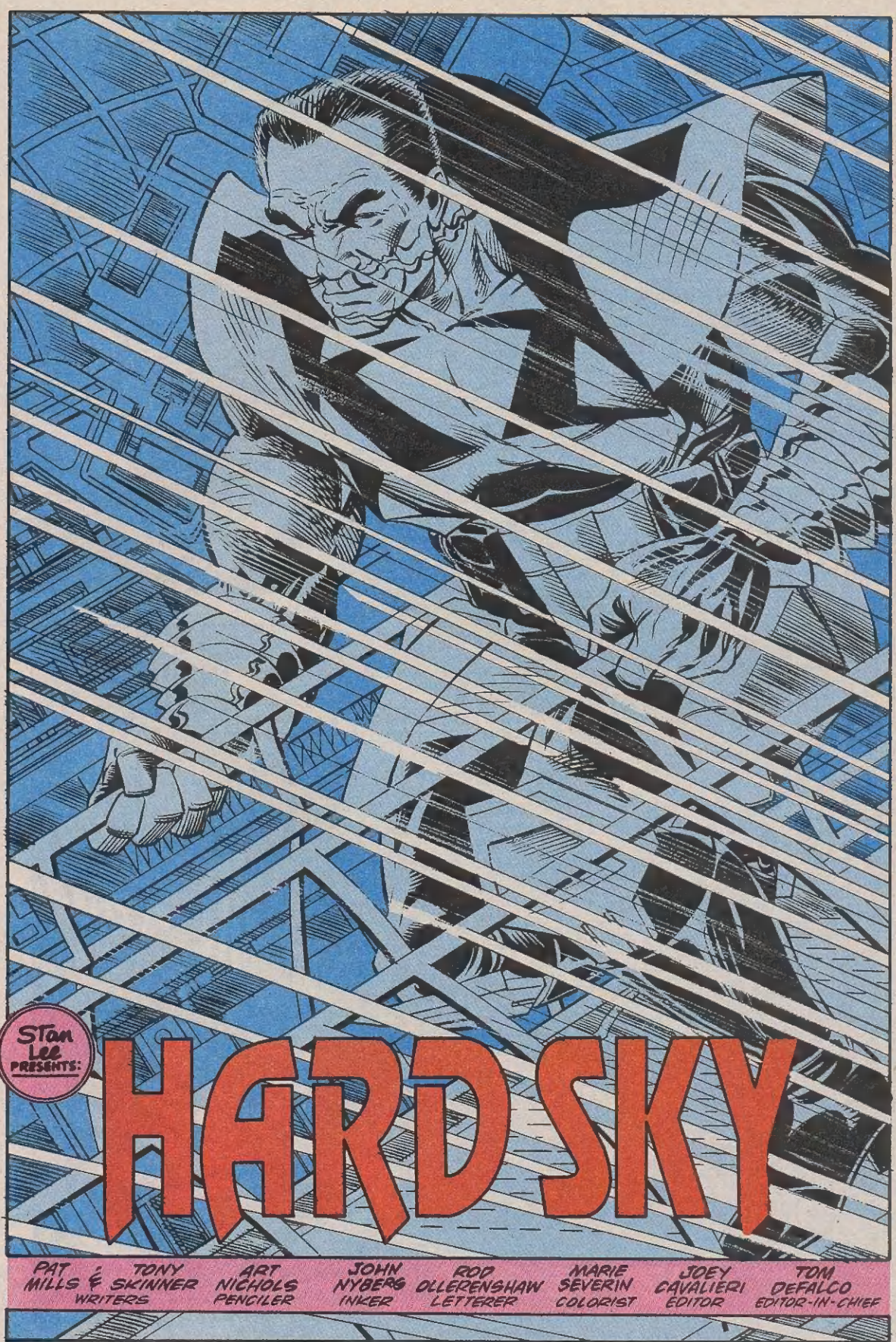

"IT PROVIDES THE ULTIMATE IN LUXURY AND PLEASURE... A SWIMMING POOL... FINE RESTAURANTS... A HOLO THEATER...
"GRAV DISCO...
"FOR TECHNO-BUFFS...THE LINER WORKS ON A REVOLUTIONARY SYSTEM OF 'TUNED SONICS'-POWERFUL SOUND GENERATORS USING ENHANCED PHASE CANCELLATION TECHNIQUES..."
"...THAT CREATE A SOLID STANDING WAVE OF AIR -- HARD SKY--AROUND AN INTENSE VACUUM WHICH PULLS THE SHIP FORWARD AND UP.
"AND IF YOU UNDERSTAND ANY OF THAT, YOU'RE SMARTER THAN I AM!"
"BUT THE PAYOFF IS... IT USES ALMOST NO POWER TO LIFT AN AIRCRAFT THE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF AN OCEAN LINER!
"IT'S THE MOST COMFORTABLE AND RELAXING WAY TO TRAVEL..."



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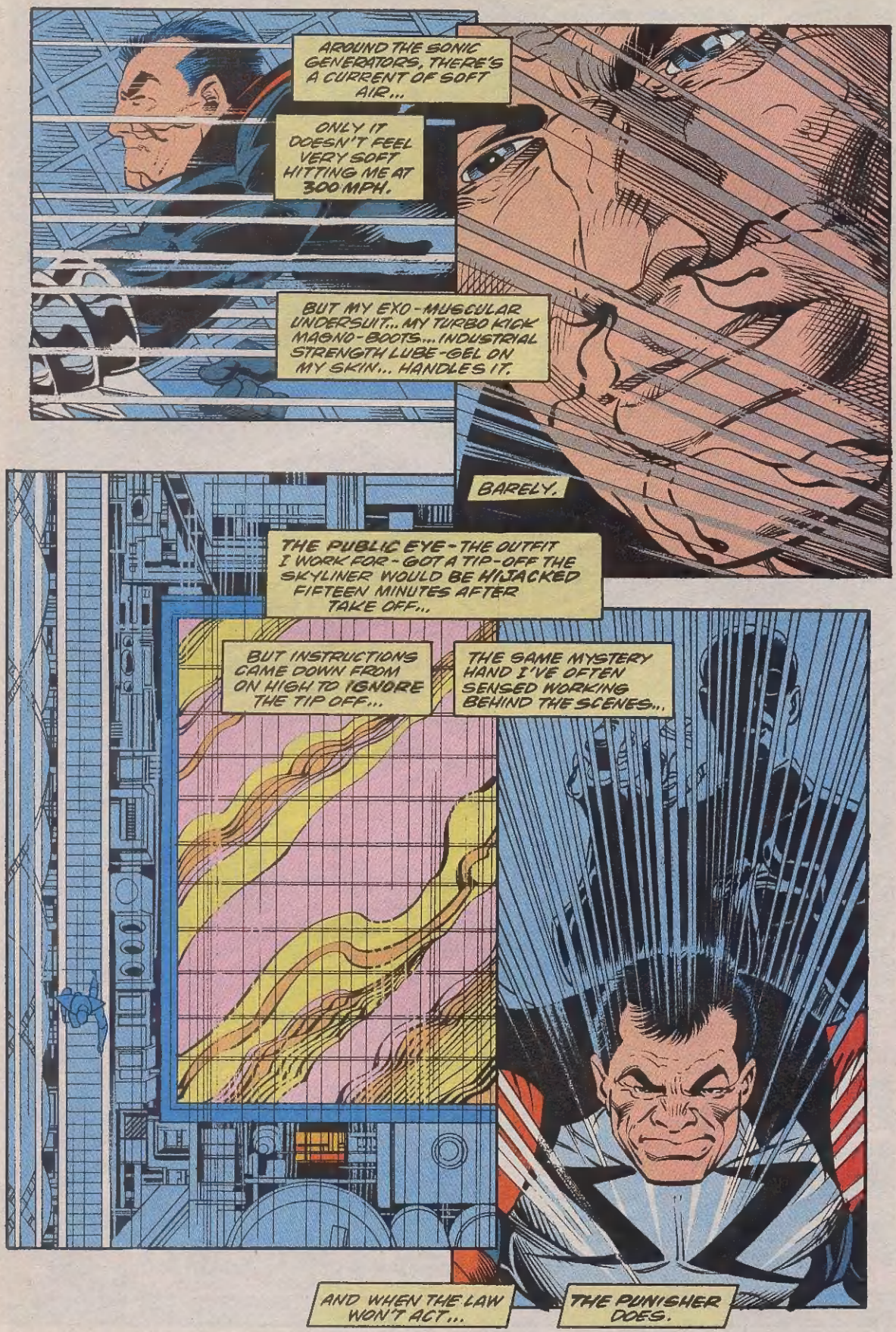
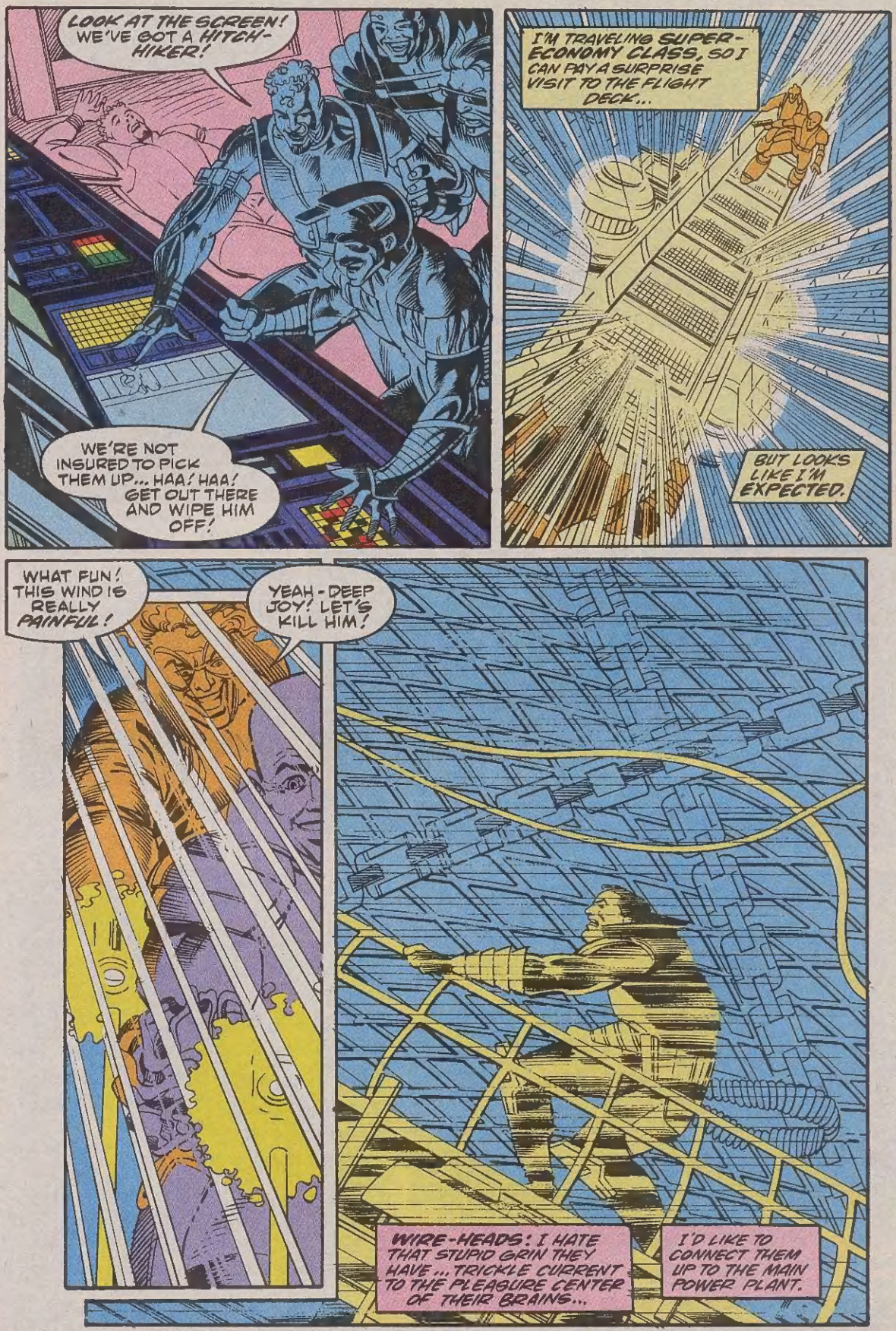
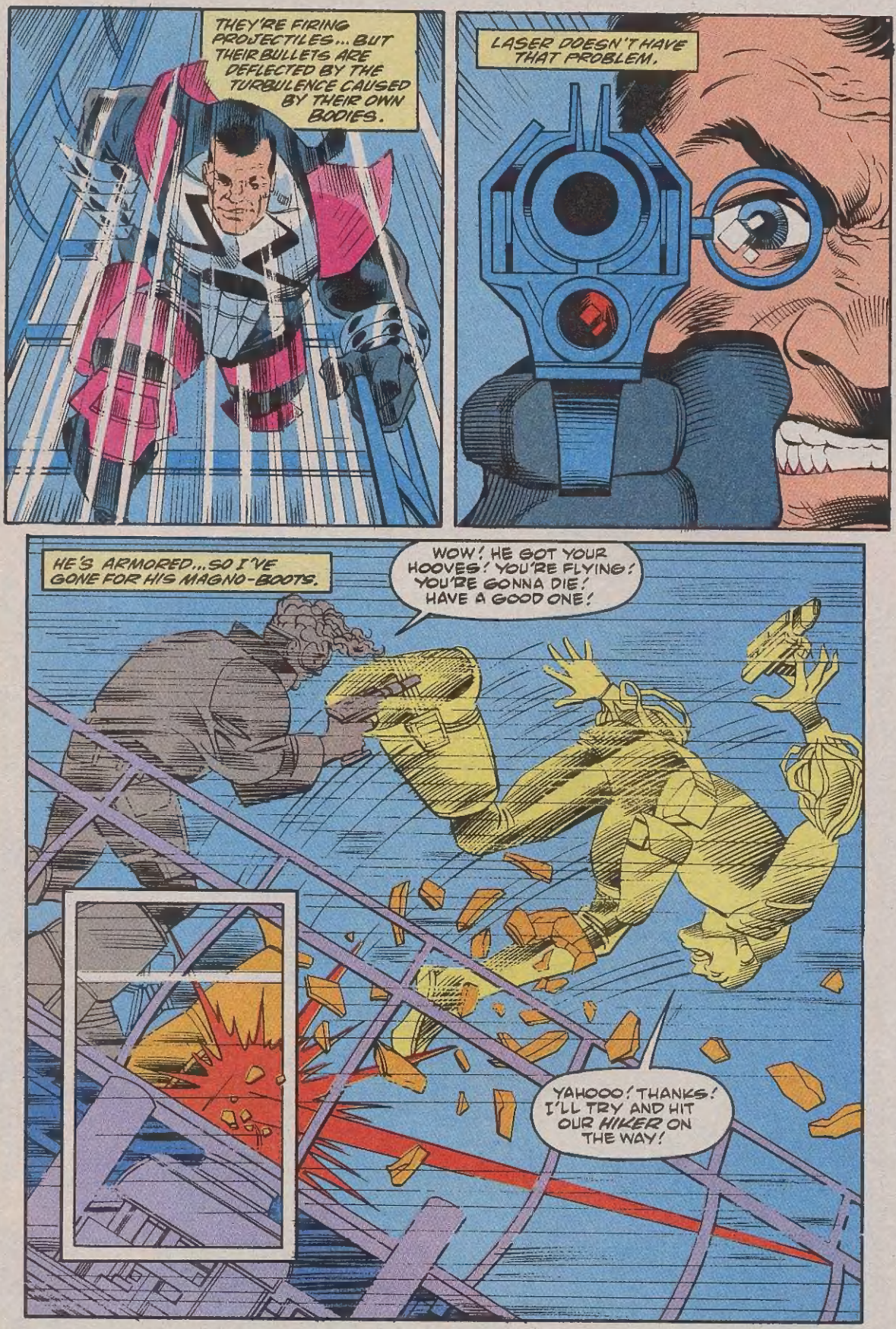
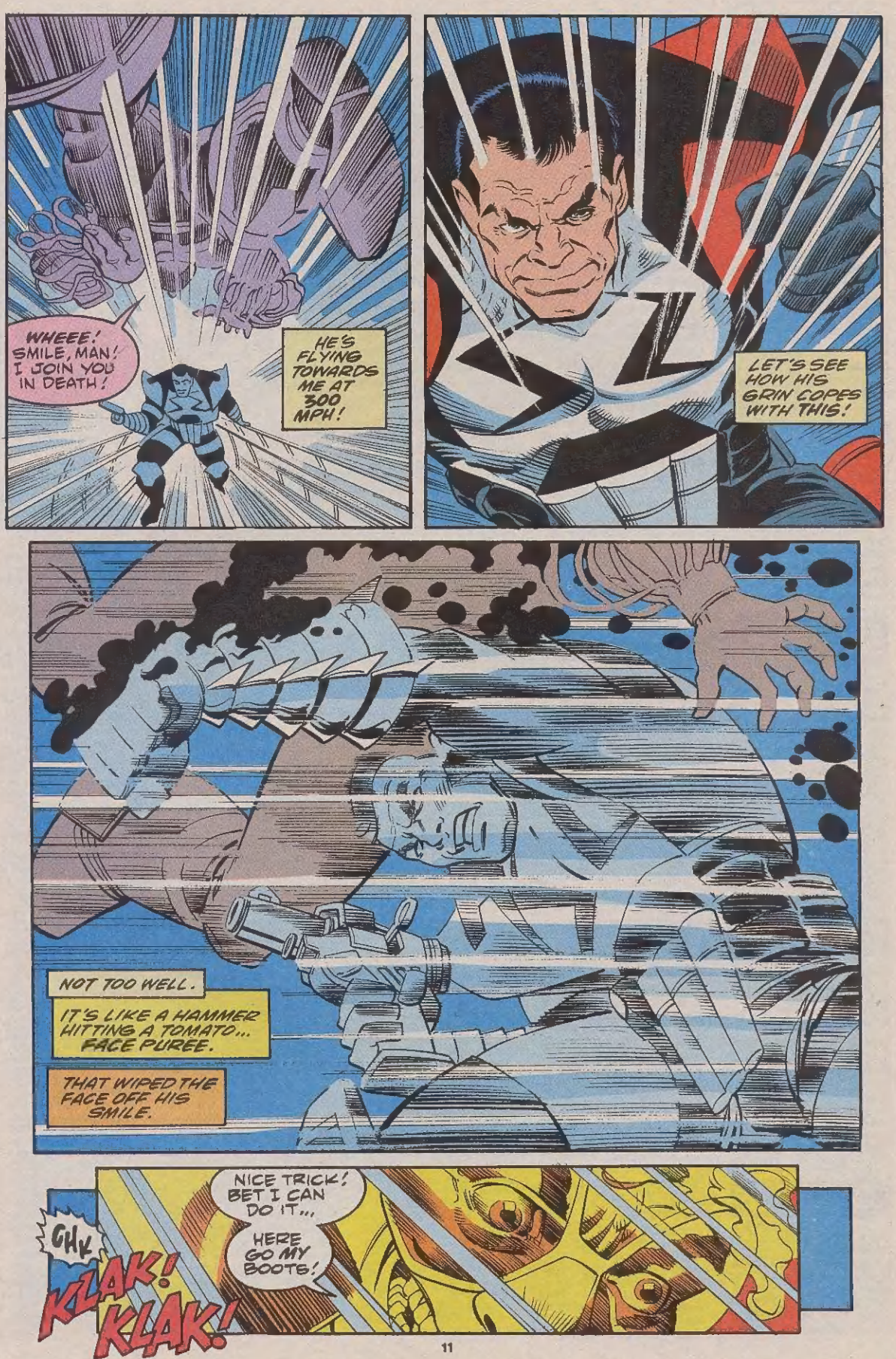
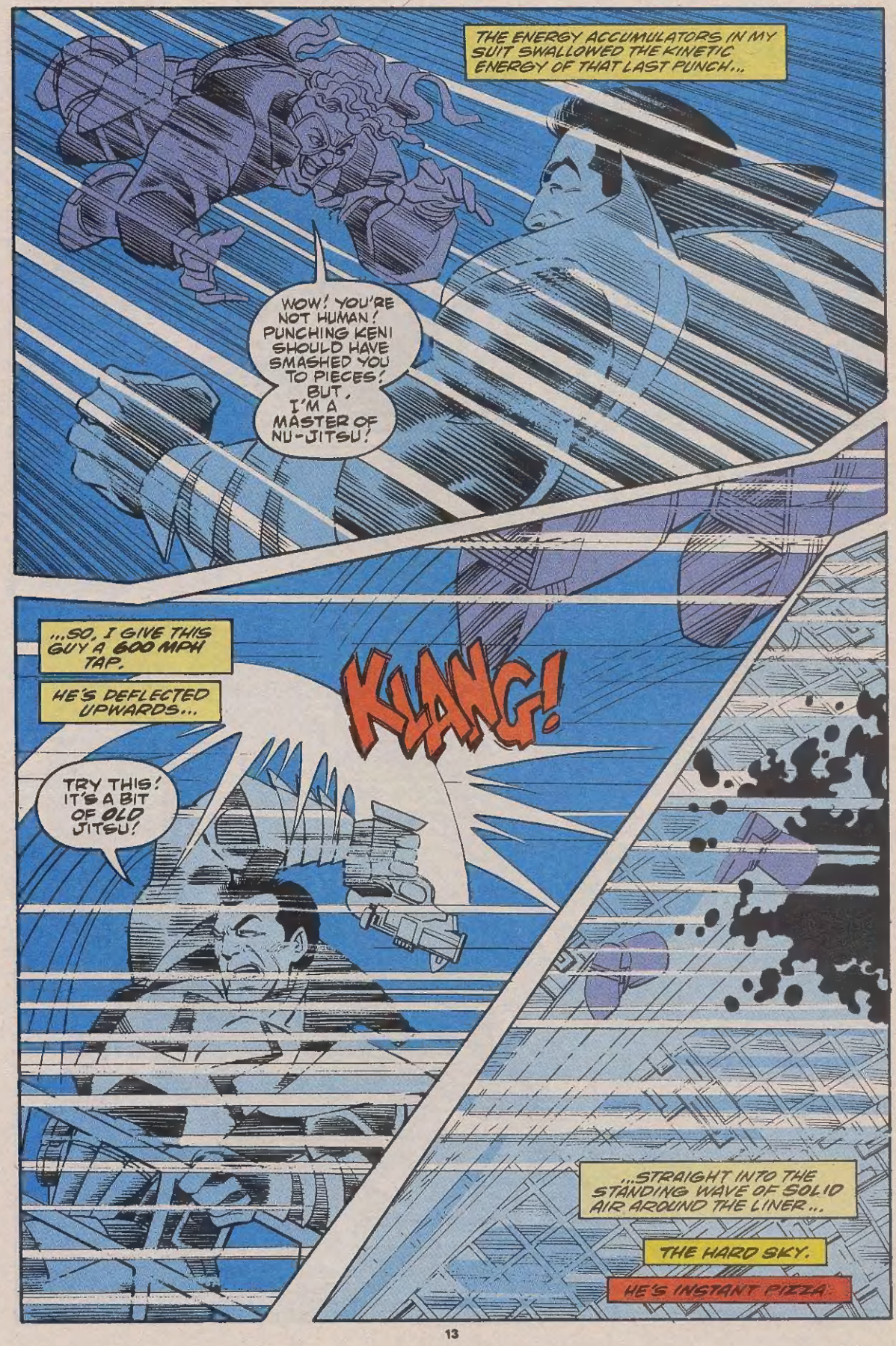

AROUND THE SONIC GENERATORS, THERE'S A CURRENT OF SOFT AIR...
ONLY IT DOESN'T FEEL VERY SOFT HITTING ME AT 300 MPH.
BUT MY EXO-MUSCULAR UNDERSUIT... MY TURBO KICK MAGNO-BOOTS... INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH LUBE-GEL ON MY SKIN... HANDLES IT.
BARELY.
THE PUBLIC EYE - THE OUTFIT I WORK FOR - GOT A TIP-OFF THE SKYLINER WOULD BE HIJACKED FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER TAKE OFF...
BUT INSTRUCTIONS CAME DOWN FROM ON HIGH TO IGNORE THE TIP OFF...
THE SAME MYSTERY HAND I'VE OFTEN SENSED WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES...
AND WHEN THE LAW WON'T ACT...
THE PUNISHER DOES.

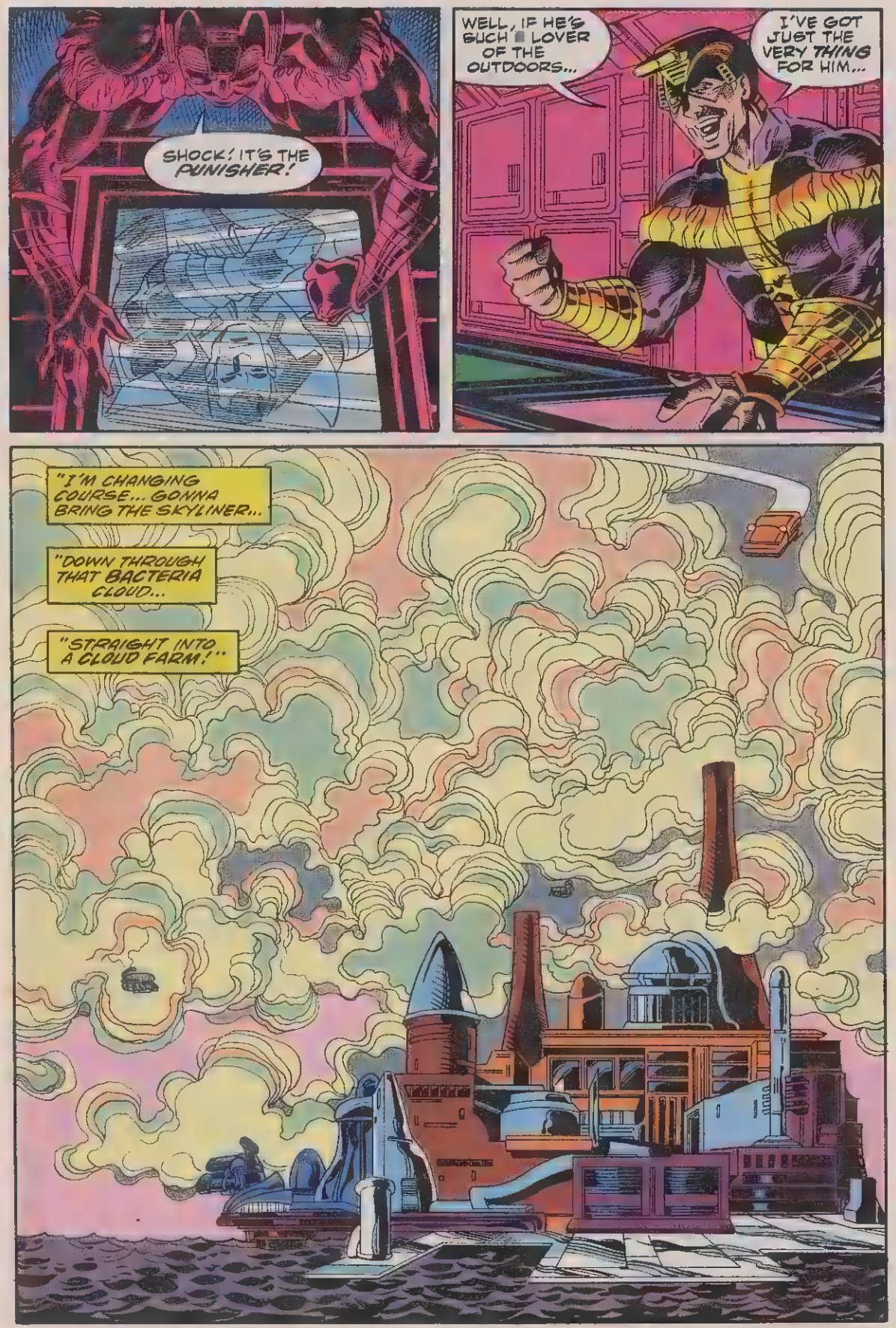
THE SKYJACKERS WILL BE HITTING THE FLIGHT DECK ABOUT NOW...
JUICE UP AND START SHOOTING--THE PLEASURE KILL BEGINS NOW!
NO-DON'T SHOOT! WE'RE UNARMED!
GOOD! GLAD TO HEAR THAT!
UUUUHH!... I NEEDED THAT... EVERY TIME I FIRE, I GET AN EXTRA SURGE OF... PLEASURE!
ALL OUR MEN IN POSITION. THE LINER'S IN OUR HANDS, SLAYER.
SECURITY...?
ALL DEAD.


LOOK AT THE SCREEN! WE'VE GOT A HITCH-HIKER!
WE'RE NOT INSURED TO PICK THEM UP... HAA! HAA! GET OUT THERE AND WIPE HIM OFF!
I'M TRAVELING SUPER-ECONOMY CLASS, SO I CAN PAY A SURPRISE VISIT TO THE FLIGHT DECK...
BUT LOOKS LIKE I'M EXPECTED.
WHAT FUN! THIS WIND IS REALLY PAINFUL!
YEAH - DEEP JOY! LET'S KILL HIM!
WIRE-HEADS: I HATE THAT STUPID GRIN THEY HAVE ... TRICKLE CURRENT TO THE PLEASURE CENTER OF THEIR BRAINS...
I'D LIKE TO CONNECT THEM UP TO THE MAIN POWER PLANT.


THEY'RE FIRING PROJECTILES... BUT THEIR BULLETS ARE DEFLECTED BY THE TURBULENCE CAUSED BY THEIR OWN BODIES.
LASER DOESN'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM.
HE'S ARMORED... SO I'VE GONE FOR HIS MAGNO-BOOTS.
WOW! HE GOT YOUR HOOVES! YOU'RE FLYING! YOU'RE GONNA DIE! HAVE A GOOD ONE!
YAHOOO! THANKS! I'LL TRY AND HIT OUR HIKER ON THE WAY!

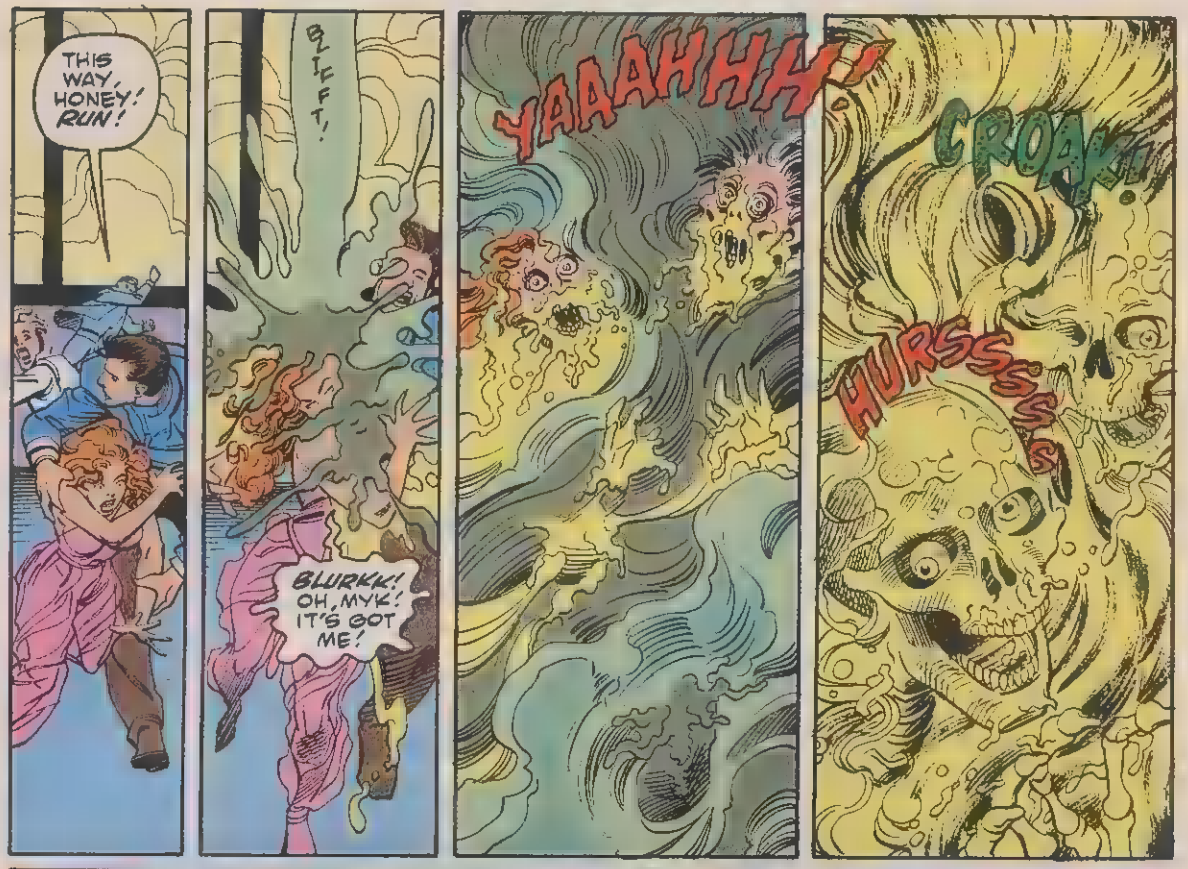

WHEEE! SMILE, MAN! I JOIN YOU IN DEATH!
HE'S FLYING TOWARDS ME AT 300 MPH!
LET'S SEE HOW HIS GRIN COPES WITH THIS!
NOT TOO WELL.
IT'S LIKE A HAMMER HITTING A TOMATO... FACE PUREE.
THAT WIPED THE FACE OFF HIS SMILE.
NICE TRICK! BET I CAN DO IT...
HERE GO MY BOOTS!
CHK
KLAK! KLAK!

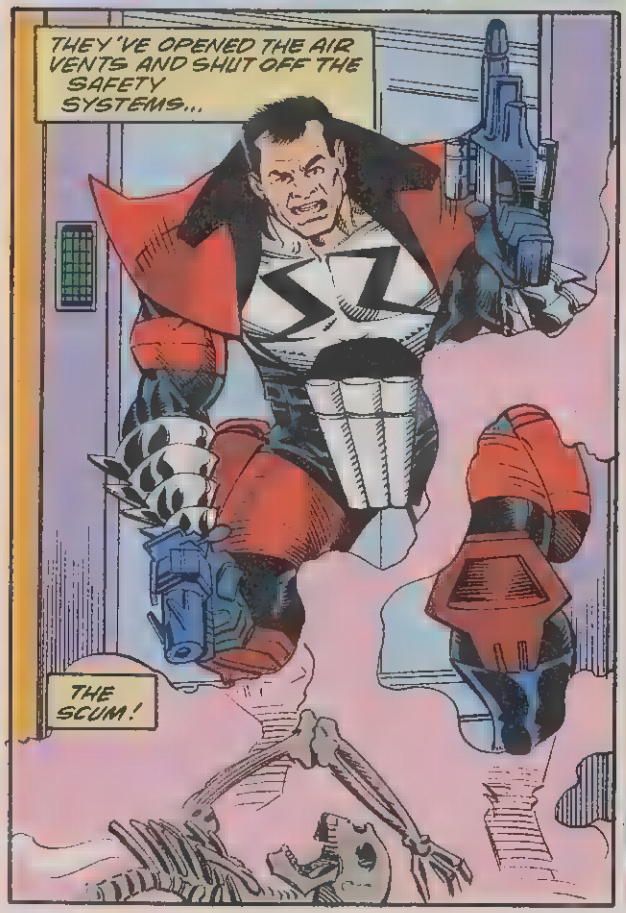

THE ENERGY ACCUMULATORS IN MY SUIT SWALLOWED THE KINETIC ENERGY OF THAT LAST PUNCH...
WOW! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN! PUNCHING KEN! SHOULD HAVE SMASHED YOU TO PIECES! BUT, I'M A MASTER OF NU-JITSU!
...SO, I GIVE THIS GUY A 600 MPH TAP.
HE'S DEFLECTED UPWARDS...
KLANG!
TRY THIS! IT'S A BIT OF OLD JITSU!
...STRAIGHT INTO THE STANDING WAVE OF SOLID AIR AROUND THE LINER...
THE HARD SKY.
HE'S INSTANT PIZZA.

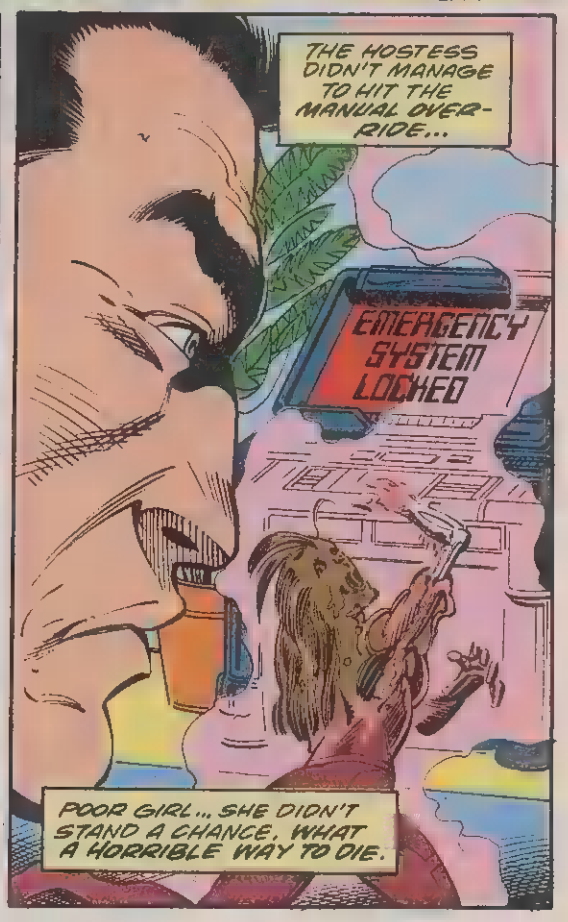

SHOCK! IT'S THE PUNISHER!
WELL, IF HE'S SUCH A LOVER OF THE OUTDOORS...
I'VE GOT JUST THE VERY THING FOR HIM...
"I'M CHANGING COURSE... GONNA BRING THE SKYLINER...
"DOWN THROUGH THAT BACTERIA CLOUD...
"STRAIGHT INTO A CLOUD FARM!"

*******! CLOUD FARM... SYNTHIA AGRI-BUSINESS SEEDS THE HOLES IN THE OZONE LAYER WITH GENETICALLY PRODUCED BACTERIA...
AND WE'RE DIVING RIGHT INTO IT!
THE BUGS THRIVE ON THE HARSH ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION - UNTIL THEY REACH COAGULATION MASS AND ARE THEN SCOOPED UP BY FLYING HARVESTERS.
THEY MAKE FOOD OUT OF THIS MUCK!
THE BACTERIA EAT ANYTHING ORGANIC - INCLUDING PUNISHERS!
GOTTA BLAST MY WAY BACK INTO THE SHIP.
JUST IN TIME... WE'RE INSIDE THE CLOUD!

I'M OPENING THE [redacted] VENTS TO GIVE OUR PASSENGERS A TREAT...
"INSTEAD OF THEM WAITING FOR THEIR SYNTHI-BURGERS, THEY CAN HAVE THEM FRESH AND RAW!"
SAFETY SYSTEMS OFF
BRIDGE SEALED
UUUUGH! WET BACTERIA!
IT'S LIKE UNTREATED SEWAGE! OH, SHOCK! I STINK!
AAAAH! IT BURNS!


THIS WAY, HONEY! RUN!
BLEFT!
BLURK! OH, MYK! IT'S GOT ME!
YAAAHHH!
CROAK!
HURSSSS


THEY'VE OPENED THE AIR VENTS AND SHUT OFF THE SAFETY SYSTEMS...
THE SCUM!


THE HOSTESS DIDN'T MANAGE TO HIT THE MANUAL OVER-RIDE...
EMERGENCY SYSTEM LOCKED
POOR GIRL... SHE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE. WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE.

I CAN FEEL THIS GUNGE EATING THROUGH MY SUIT... DISSOLVING THE GREASE ON MY SKIN... BUT IF I CAN JUST REACH THE SAFETY CONTROLS...
SYSTEM RELEASED
THE HOSTESS KNEW THE CODE - BUT I DON'T. GOTTA BLAST OFF THE SAFETY LOCK.
HOLD UP, PEOPLE... I'M SWITCHING ON THE OXYGEN MASKS AND AUTO-CLEANERS!
THEY'LL SUCK UP THE BACTERIA BEFORE IT REACHES ANYONE ELSE.
HURRY, PLEASE!
KLIK!
AND NOW TO WIPE OUT THE REALLY DANGEROUS BACTERIA.

BUT WHO HIRED THOSE SLIME...? ARE THEY CYBER-NOSTRA...? LATVERIAN REBELS...? ENEMIES OF STARK-FUJIKAWA...!
BRIDGE ACCESS
TIME TO GET SOME ANSWERS!
THE PUNISHER'S SWITCHED ON THE SAFETYS...
SHHHH! I THINK I CAN HEAR HIM...
GUARD THE DOOR!
OKAY! BUT I DON'T S[redacted] WHAT FOR!
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN BREAK THROUGH SOLID-
THUNG!

EXO-SKELETON STILL FUNCTIONING. MATT DIDN'T BUY THIS IN A CHAIN STORE. BACTERIA HARDLY TOUCHED IT...
DITTO THE LASER.
EXPLAIN.
AND DON'T THINK OF USING YOUR HEAD LASER...
... AS SOON AS I SEE THE END GLOW, I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT.
HOW CAN I RESIST SUCH A GRACIOUS REQUEST...? IT'S QUITE SIMPLE -- WE'RE NOT TERRORISTS, WE'RE EMPLOYEES.
WE'VE [redacted] HIRED BY ALCHEMAX. ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS TO CRASH THIS SKYLINER... RUIN THE SAFETY RECORD OF STARK-FUJIKAWA... DESTROY THEIR ATTEMPT AT AN ECOLOGICALLY SOUND SKYCRAFT.

SINCE ALCHEMAX IS THE MAJOR FUEL PRODUCER, ECOLOGY BITES INTO THEIR PROFITS.
OH, AND ONE MORE THING...
WELL?
WAK!
MY EMPLOYERS WON'T BE HAPPY ABOUT MY FAILURE-- BUT I'M ALIVE.
AND THAT KEEPS THE SMILE ON MY FACE.
ENTERIOR ACCESS
NO PACK FOR YOU, PUNISHER, SO I GUESS THIS IS ADIOS.

CATCH YOU LATER, LOSER!
SOONER THAN YOU THINK, BUTT-HEAD.
I'VE SET THE CONTROLS TO AUTO-LAND. THE COMPUTER WILL TAKE IT SAFELY BACK TO NEW YORK.
YOU THINK THAT JET PACK WILL HELP YOU ESCAPE...
I DON'T NEED A JET PACK--ALL I NEED IS HATE!

HIS JET PACK WON'T KICK IN UNTIL HE'S A THOUSAND FEET FROM THE GROUND: SAFETY FEATURE IN CASE OF MASS EVACUATION.
SO IF I KNIFE THROUGH THE AIR, I'LL GO FASTER...
THERE'S THE WARNING SMOKE... THE JET WILL START IN 30 SECS.
GOTCHA!
WOW! SURPRISE! I LIKE SURPRIGES!

HERE'S YOUR SURPRISE!
ONLY FIVE SECONDS LEFT BEFORE THE JET KICKS IN! GOTTA END THIS QUICK... TAKE HIS PACK...
SHUT UP!
UUHH
YOU...YOU REALIZE THIS PACK WON'T CARRY BOTH OF US?
FOOM!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU REALLY ARE A PERSISTENT HITCHER, PUNISHER... BUT I...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

TOM TALKS

Have you ever noticed how many rumors you hear in the course of a day? Rumors about friends, enemies, politicians, celebrities, and people you don't even know? Some publications and television shows are devoted to spreading gossip!

The comic book industry also has its share of rumors. How many times have you walked into a comic book store and heard the "real" reason why a certain creative person quit a title, a particular comic is priced a certain way, or a favorite character is being killed? The people spreading these rumors usually claim to have inside sources of information.

They rarely do.

So where do they get their facts? Simple! They make them up! They present personal opinions and idle speculation as hard data.

In case you haven't noticed, this is an industry of story-tellers. We're constantly weaving tales of moral heroes who fight against overwhelming odds to defeat monstrous villains! It's a familiar scenario. There's always a good guy and a bad guy. You've seen it in countless comics. You routinely hear it in the rumor mill.

Most people like to portray themselves as heroes, and their enemies as villains. They like to emphasize victories, and ignore defeats. They take credit for triumphs, and blame mistakes on others.

Think about that the next time you read any interview or article. Think about the next time someone tells you the "inside" facts about the comic book industry ... or any other industry for that matter.

Stories our our business.
Our only business.
Thanks for being there,

Tom D.

MIGHTY MARVEL
FAN PHONE (516)352-1212
IT'S THE COST OF A REGULAR CALL FROM ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND WON'T EXCEED 35 CENTS.
YOUR INSIDE CONNECTION AT MARVEL

Heard any good rumors lately? There are a few of them floating around the Marvel Universe this past year, and we thought we'd take this page to lay a few of them to rest, while obscuring others.

Rumor: **Tom DeFalco** has been fired as Editor-In-Chief of Marvel Comics and replaced with **Fabian Nicieza, Roy Thomas,** or **Mark Gruenwald.**

The Truth: Tom has *not* been fired, nor has he quit. In fact, Tom will be in charge of Marvel Comics at least until the year 2099, if not beyond! Fabian wouldn't take the job — he couldn't afford the pay cut! Roy is happy writing 80 pages of CONAN a month, plus FANTASTIC FOUR UNLIMITED, and whatever else he can work in. And Mark is the world's most contented second banana.

Rumor: The FANTASTIC FOUR is being cancelled and replaced with a comic called FANTASTIC FORCE.

The Truth: The FANTASTIC FOUR is *not* being cancelled. We wouldn't cancel the World's Greatest Comics Magazine now, would we? Especially not with a movie version rarin' to be released. As for FANTASTIC FORCE, does the term "spin-off" mean anything to you?

Rumor: Marvel will soon be publishing 200 titles a month.

The Truth: This is a ridiculous, completely unfounded rumor. The truth is that we will eventually be publishing *300* titles a month! We want every Marveloid to be able to read ten new Marvels a day (which, by the way, is the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance)! You read it here first ... 300 titles a month by January 2099!

Rumor: Associate editor **Mike Lackey** is quitting comics to become a pro-wrestler.

The Truth: This one is true.

Rumor: All the Executive Editors at Marvel are going to be fired and replaced with X-Men Group Editor **Bob Harras.**

The Truth: This is another preposterous one. Anyone who knows Bob knows that he has no interest in taking over the company. Bob is much too busy ruling his X-Empire, which encompasses not only comics, but also video games, toys, a Saturday morning cartoon series ... Let's face it, Bob is more powerful than any Executive Editor could ever be!

Rumor: Marvel President **Terry Stewart** is running for President of the United States in '96.

The Truth: This one is not true, but we hear Ross Perot may be looking for a new running mate, so who can say ...?

Rumor: **Stan Lee** is leaving Marvel to work for the competition.

The Truth: Stan Lee is *not* leaving Marvel! Stan is one of the founding fathers of Marveldom. Stan is a good father — he would never turn his back on his babies! He is the Walt Disney to our mouse ... the Hugh Hefner to our rabbit ... the Steven Spielberg to our dinosaur.

And besides, it would break his heart to look at the top of each of our mighty mags and see the words, "Tom DeFalco Presents ..."

Those are just a few of the rumors floating around the offices these days. Glad we were able to clear the air. Till next time, remember, a rumor is not true unless we made it up first!

THE BULL'S EYE by RICK PARKER

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **AVENGERS STRIKE FILE #1:** Pin-ups, short stories, & more!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL: MAN WITHOUT FEAR #4 OF 5:** Krushed by the Kingpin!
- ☐ **DEATHLOK #31:** Deathlok, 1970s model vs. Deathlok, 1990s model!
- ☐ **HELLSTORM #10:** Daimon fights his Dad!
- ☐ **HOKUM & HEX #5:** With Bloodshed for all!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #146:** All Midnight Sons issue!
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT DECEMBER 1993:** Free checklist!
- ☐ **METEOR MAN #6 OF 6:** Based on the hit movie!
- ☐ **NEW WARRIORS #43: Marvel Boy** is back — with a new name and costume!
- ☐ **PUNISHER 2099 #12: Valhalla** comes tumbling down!
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #208:** "Siege of Darkness" crossover!
- ☐ **STRANGE COMBAT TALES #4 OF 4:** Gory, bloody action!
- ☐ **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORLD #17:** Concluding TEKLORDS!
- ☐ **VENOM: THE MADNESS #3 OF 3:** Jossled by the Juggernaut!
- ☐ **X-FORCE #30:** Save up your quarters — Arcade is back!

VOTER VINDICATION MOLECULAR ARCHITECTURE BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER FEDERICO FELLINI INSTITUTIONAL BLESSING

BUT FIRST I'M RIPPING OUT YOUR FUN GUN...
AND THAT STUPID WIRE YOU STICK IN YOUR HEAD...!
AAARGH!
AND NEXT...
I'M TAKING YOUR TRANSPORT.
COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF YOU HITTING THE GROUND WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE...
OH, NO! NO! NO! I'M GONNA DIE! I...I'M SCARED!

AFTER ALL, I AM THE PUNISHER!
YAAA

TARGET PRACTICE

Joey Cavalieri, Editor • Matthew Morra, Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics • 387 Park Avenue South • New York, New York 10016

All letters for publication must include your name and address, although we will gladly withhold that info upon request.

Out Of My Head

Not to worry, not to sweat. Tom Morgan and Jimmy Palmiotti will be back next ish.

Meantime, this issue's pretty darn cool, what with Artie Five Cents and John Nyberg and all.

As always, your comments are appreciated.

Dear *Target Practice*,

I have been reading the 2099 titles and the best one to date is PUNISHER 2099. I love blood and guts comics. I think the Punisher is like me—a bad dude. Just one question: when you show blood, why is it black?

Colin McCauley
917 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335

Isn't everybody's?

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E. Total Distribution (sum of C and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 314,033. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 207,625.
F. Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 500. Actual no. copies of Single issue nearest to filing date: 500. 2) Returns from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 93,425. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 77,475.
G. Total (sum of E, F1 and 2 should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 407,958. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 285,600.
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Diane Rivera — Business Manager

Dear *Target Practice*,

I love all the Punisher's awesome weapons, especially the needle gun! You guys are either lunatics or complete geniuses!

How does the Punisher stay sane? I mean his family was killed by a psychopath and his girlfriend is a giant ice cube. I don't think I could handle it all.

Tyler Cumbea
5703 Timber Ridge Dr.
Louisville, KY 40059

Jake's having trouble handling it all too, Ty, and his grip on sanity is definitely getting weaker.

Dear *Target Practice*,

I've been collecting Punisher comics for about three years and I think PUNISHER 2099 is the best one. It's every bit as good as the regular ones except with better drawings and cooler, more exciting ideas.

Jake Gallows is the perfect Punisher. His symbol is a lot better too. His weapons are great, and perfect for the setting of 2099. They make it seem a lot more like the future. That's why I think you should make a Punisher 2099 Armory; it would be really cool.

Collin Sniff
11605 Rolling Hills
Wichita, KS 67212

It would be cool, Collin. If enough of you ask for it, we'll consider adding the project to our regular six titles (plus the SPIDER-MAN 2099 ANNUAL and another new series planned for 1994)!

Dear *Target Practice*,

I love the 2099 titles. The way you guys built an entire new world is great. I also like how Jake uses the Punisher's old ways of justice combined with the modern means of punishment. When are we going to see more of that fantastic motorcycle of Jake's that can go as fast as 800 m.p.h.? Also, what kind of villain is the Fearmaster? Whatever he is, I'm sure he means trouble for our new hero with an attitude.

Brian Nieves
8 Hollywood St.
Worchester, MA 01610

You'll be seeing lots more of Jake's new and improved bike in the future, Brian. Tom Morgan just re-designed it last ish. As for the Fearmaster, he's the head of the Cyber-Nostra (2099's organized crime) and the Public Eye (2099's police force). He's also a vice-president of Alchemax who was given the power to turn living flesh into any substance by – we think – aliens from outer space.

Dear *Target Practice*,

Of the many series Marvel puts out, I must say one of my favorites is PUNISHER 2099. I have every one so far and enjoy every bit of them. The drawings are great and the ideas along with them are excellent. I would also like to mention one of the ideas I really like is the prison he has downstairs. I have a question though: does Matt Axel have a story behind him or is he just a friend? So, Pat, Tony, Tom, Jimmy, Ken, Ian, Joey, Matt and Tommy De... keep up the good work!

James Guertib
8 West Harris Ave.
Moorestown, NJ 08057

There is most certainly a story behind Matt Axel, Jim, one which Pat and Tony will reveal real soon.

Dear *Target Practice*,

I'd just like to say what a fine job all of you are doing. Whose idea was the power-bat? I think it's really cool.

Bryan Gault
350 S. Mark Dr.
North Vernon, IN 47265

The credit goes to Pat and Tony, Bryan, the experts of 2099 cool.

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

Spider-Man 2099 #16 *This is it! The sensational start of the major Marvel event, "The Fall of the Hammer!" Hey! All the Ron Lim/Al Williamson covers fit together to form one awe-inspiring panorama! (Meaning, we didn't learn our lesson when we tried it on DOOM 2099!)*

Ravage 2099 #15 *The crossover continues! The X-Men (2099 vintage, of course) meet the Beastman himself!*

X-Men 2099 #5 *Think Lyla's one of a kind? Wait'll you meet Serina! Plus, the whereabouts of Jordan Boone! Didn't think it could happen here, didja?*

Doom 2099 #14 *How can our would-be world monarch take command when everything around him is spinning out of control?*

NEXT ISSUE

...and it all winds up here in PUNISHER #13! The Hammer falls...preferably not on our heroes! This one will have everything...and everybody!